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Hip Hip Hooray! Sinterklaas has come!



In the U.S., it might be Santa Claus that comes to town, but in Holland and Aruba, and other Dutch territories, the arrival of Sinterklaas is the event that draws thousands. Yesterday afternoon families filled the wharf of the Port Authority and lined the streets of Oranjestad to watch Sinterklaas as he arrived from Spain with his Zwarte Piet. Over the next three weeks, until his feast day on December 5, children will put out a

shoe, in the hope that Sinterklaas will pass by on his horse and leave them a treat or a small toy. Traditionally a bit of grass is gathered and a bowl of water provided for his very overworked transport.

We can expect the venerable gentleman and his assistants in colorful Moorish garb to make many public appearances at schools, shops and events, where he often gently lectures the children

on proper behavior. If teachers inform him that one of the children have been very naughty over the past year, they may not receive one of the traditional treats that the Zwarte Piet usually give out, candies and kruidnoten, as all the lucky children who met Sinterklaas at the wharf. "All of Aruba's children are 'bon mucha,'" he told the TV reporters and Aruba's Minister of Economic and Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle



Hooyboer Winklaar, who officially greeted him to the island with her children.

The tradition of Sinterklaas predates Santa Claus, and is based on a real person. In the fourth century A.D., St.

Nicholas (in Dutch called "Sinterklaas" or "Sint Nicolaas"; in German called "Sankt Nikolaus") was the bishop of Myra, which is now situated in Turkey.

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Heavy rain causes flooding in The Netherlands, Belgium

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands -- Heavy rain in the south of the country on Saturday led to localised flooding in places and put officials on high alert as the level of the Maas river rose.

The rain was set to continue in the south and in Belgium on Sunday but then tail off.

In the area between Eindhoven and Venray, some 60 millimetres of rain fell over a 24-hour period, it was reported.

In the east of Noord Brabant province, the local water board has deliberately flooded fields the size of 50 football pitches to ease pressure on the river.

A number of roads have been flooded in the more hilly regions of Limburg and the fire brigade has been busy pumping out flooded cellars all over the region.

The problem has been made worse because storm drains have become blocked by autumn leaves. Sandbags are being used in several areas to keep water at bay.

In the northern Limburg town of Baarlo, where three small rivers meet, flooding is widespread. The stream that cuts through the town has widened from two to 50 meters.

Meanwhile, in Belgium, heavy rains battered Brussels at the weekend, causing flooding and mudslides that left at least two people dead as scores of others had to be evacuated, sometimes by boat, reports said yesterday.

Another person was reported missing, said Belgian authorities who had previously announced three deaths.

While the rain appeared to have eased yesterday after downpours that began late Fri-

day, water levels continued to rise with floods and mud blocking several routes and causing people to be evacuated from their homes. An entire hospital was evacuated in the central city of Tubize.

Central and northern areas activated their provincial disaster plans but Prime Minister Yves Leterme said it was not immediately necessary to deploy national disaster measures, with the situation under control.

Around the capital Brussels, canals had burst their banks and 230 houses were evacuated at Leeuw-Saint-Pierre while pharmaceutical group UCB had to halt work at its flooded factory.

Train traffic was temporarily disrupted, including the international Thalys and Eurostar lines, and the army was mobilised in some areas, reports said.

Sinterklaas has come

Continued from page 2

According to the legend, he saved his town from starvation. The story also credits him with reviving three dead children, and offering gifts of dowries to poor girls.

It is believed that he died on the sixth of December in 343. In 1087 his relics were taken to Bari in Italy. It is unclear why, according to the Dutch tradition, he comes from Spain. Possibly, it has something to do with the fact that St. Nicholas was the patron of sailors. In the 17th Century, Holland was famous

for its navigation. Perhaps by contact with Spanish sailors this myth began, and explains why St. Nicholas has "Zwarte (black) Pieten" to help him, because the Moors dominated Spain for several hundred years.

The celebration of Sinterklaas takes place on the eve of his departure on December 6, when he makes his way quietly back to Spain to return the following year with his Zwarte Piet to delight the children once again.

by Rosalie Klein

Mexican police search for 12-year-old hitman

MEXICO CITY, Mexico (AFP) - Mexican police were searching yesterday for a 12-year-old boy hired as a hitman by a drug cartel, Morelos state prosecutors said.

Police have been searching for the boy, known only by his nickname "El Ponchis," since late October, after military forces released him due to his young age.

He had earlier been arrested along with six suspected hitmen for the South Pacific Cartel. The suspects allegedly confessed they had killed several men found hanging from bridges in Cuernavaca, less than 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of Mexico City.

They said the boy was in charge of cutting the victims' heads and genitalia, according to local media.

"We are looking for him but we still haven't arrested him," an official from the Morelos state prosecutor's office told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigation was still ongoing.

Cuernavaca, where many wealthy families from the capital keep a secondary resi-

dence, is also the site of a fierce battle between rival drug traffickers fighting for control of the Arturo Beltran Leyva cartel after its leader of the same name was killed by military forces last December.

President Felipe Calderon has dispatched 50,000 troops to contain Mexico's brutal drug war, but the four-year crackdown has so far failed to stem the bloodshed that has claimed some 28,000 lives.



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News Provider:
AFP-Agence France Presse

Caya G. F. Betico Croes 111
Tel: 588-9517 - Fax: 588-9518

E-mail:
themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com

Website:
www.themorningnewsaruba.com

Suu Kyi appeals for unity in address to thousands

YANGON, Myanmar (AFP) - Democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi reached out to Myanmar's splintered opposition forces yesterday, calling on thousands of exuberant supporters to unite following her release from house arrest.

"Please keep your energy for us. If we work together we will reach our goal," she told a sea of followers outside her party headquarters, suggesting years of isolation have not weakened her defiant stance against military rule.

"I want to work with all democratic forces," said the 65-year-old Nobel Peace Prize



winner, who has been locked up by Myanmar's ruling generals for 15 of the past 21 years.

"I believe in human rights and I believe in the rule of law," she added.

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ORANJESTAD -- Aruba Tourism Authorities began the 3rd annual competition of photo's and video's for their official website, www.aruba.com, and would like to remind the people of Aruba to subscribe and so help increase the tourism of our "dushi" Island of Aruba. Call or come in person at ATA and subscribe.

This year subjects are, themes of categories of our "dushi" Island that could be used for the photo and video contest.

"TREASURES OF ARUBA" are: Night Life, Events (musical events, Aruba and his people, visual arts), Architectural, Our beaches and extreme sport.

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"Treasures of Aruba" is for the persons of all age; any person that has a camera or digital video camera, and likes the art of photo and video.

"Treasures of Aruba" was initiated the on October 19 and shall reach its peak the on December 13, 2010. The moment you register in the competition, automatically you will accept all regulations and demands stipulated within the official rules of the competition.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Participants can use any kind of camera / video camera or cellular that has a high quality video capacity and hand in a video of no more than 2 minutes. Or go to www.aruba.com/tesoronan or contact: Paula Ochoa-p.ochoa@aruba.com.

For more information interested persons can also call at ATA 582- 3777 ask for Paula or Joanne.

The Billionaires Media, would like to thank all commerce and company's for their cooperation, and sponsoring of the 3rd annual competition of ATA and so help enlarge our tourism of Aruba and www.aruba.com

Volunteers take to the beaches for AHATA Coastal Clean-up 2010



Hooray for the team from Santa Ana School in Noord

Over 1800 volunteers of all ages, a mix of island residents and visitors, combed Aruba's beaches for debris to leave them again immaculate and pristine, this past Saturday morning, November 13. The 9th Annual Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) Coastal Cleanup, organized by their Environmental Committee, proved one of the most successful to date with a record number of volunteers.

Threatening weather did not daunt them, but provided a cooling cloud cover as they took to beaches around the island at 8:00 a.m. to begin clearing away trash left behind by those who still have to "get the message" to keep Aruba's beaches clean. Activities were concentrated along all the coastline from Surfside to Parke Arikok including California Dunes, Wariruri, Baby Beach/Nanky Country Club, Arashi, Bachelors Beach, Boca Grandi, Zeewijk Beach, Mangel Halto, Santo Largo, between Bushiri Beach and Tamarijn Beach, Arashi, An-



School kids get out there and do the job

aboei and Bird Sanctuary.

This year, Tropical Bottling and Balashi Brewery were principal sponsors of the clean up effort. Several school and church groups participated. The record turnout resulted in volunteers completing their task well before the projected hour of 11:30 a.m., just in time to avoid a downpour.

There are many ways to


help make their efforts easier through the year. Islanders can make sure to bring extra garbage bags and dispose of their trash properly when the cans station around the beaches overflow; a common occurrence on the weekends. Hotel guests lunching on the beach should make sure to weigh down food wrappings and takeout containers before the wind blows them down the beach or into the sea and dispose of them immediately upon completing their meal or drinks. Styrofoam containers and plastic cups are a serious hazard to marine life, turtles and other creatures try to eat them thinking they are jellyfish and then choke to death.

AHATA announced they are very pleased with the response to this year's call to clean the beaches and volunteers expressed pride and enjoyment in participating in this annual community effort.




The fun team from the Westin clean up

by Rosalie Klein



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Milano's unveils a new menu



Black Angus Filet Mignon



Rack of Lamb with Tomato almond salsa

Milano's, which opened in the South Beach Center in Palm Beach last spring, unveiled a new menu and look during an intimate gathering for media on Thursday evening. The revamped Milano's Italian Bistro & Lounge offers chic décor and an equally chic menu featuring specialties of the chef based on gourmet Italian dishes but fused with the flavors of the Caribbean.



An attractive array of appetizers and entrees presented included Prosciutto with Mango Relish, Shrimp Cognac, Black Angus Filet Mignon and a Rack of Lamb encrusted with Tomato and Almond Salsa. This appealing display was accompanied by a sampling of their special events menu which includes gourmet snacks to tempt the most discerning.

The holiday season is fast approaching, and the cozy surroundings of Milano's offers a very interesting alternative for small groups looking for a venue suited to their size. The bistro has also reworked their menu pricing to present a tab at the end of the evening that affirms patrons' satisfaction.

Gilbert, an award-winning chef, is in charge of the kitchen. His team just claimed the silver award at the October Chef/Student Culinary Competition conducted by Aruba's EPI School. This was judged by celebrity chef Michael Deihl of the East Lake Country Club and President of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Culinary Federation. Gilbert brings his expert touch and passion to Milano's new menu, and the management is very enthusiastic about the change.

The restaurant is open for dinner from 5:30 to 11:00 p.m. nightly; the lounge stays open for late night socializing until 1:00 a.m. on weekdays and 3:00 a.m. on the weekends. It provides an ideal environment for those who enjoy good conversation without have to shout over loud music.

For more information and reservations call 568-7070.

by Rosalie Klein



Prosciutto with Mango Relish



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Aruba Tourism Authority certifies 61 students of the EPI Hospitality and Tourism Unit as Aruba experts



ORANJESTAD – Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority certified 61 EPI students as Aruba Certified Expert - ACE. The group is in their first year of "Further Studies" at EPI Hospitality and Tourism Unit. The group comprise 3 classes, the FS3-1 A, B, and D, with instructors Mrs. Vanessa Loefstop and Mr. Oslin Briesen.

The subject called

FOHEX, stands for Front of the House Exposure. Students get the opportunity to explore the industrial, tourism and hospitality world. The ACE certification seminar encloses all concrete information about product Aruba as well as the job explanations of the Aruba Tourism Authority.

The training was initially given to travel agents in the markets that Aruba is active

in, so they can sell Aruba better as a tourist destination. But now, ATA is offering this seminar to everyone to improve the service quality and gain information about Aruba. This time the seminar was given by ATA representatives Mrs. Mandy Lopez and Mr. Castro Perez.

Main goal of Aruba Certified Expert – ACE:

ACE is a destination spe-

cialist program that was introduced and implemented for Aruba in the U.S.A.

The program is designed to train travel agents, making them experts in travel destinations. It is a very valuable selling tool to increase sale and production.

With time ACE was introduced to other markets such as Canada, Holland, Belgium, Colombia, Venezuela and Brazil. The main goal of

ACE is to educate and involve the community of ATA's industrial tourism works and the tourism product, and to teach them the importance of their contribution to its success.

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Sci-Tech

Beijing to melt snow to address water shortage

BEIJING, China (AFP) — Beijing will collect and melt snow this winter in a bid to quench the water shortage that has plagued the Chinese capital for years, state media reported recently.

Two vehicles with high-powered heaters capable of processing around 100 cubic metres (3,500 cubic feet) of snow and ice an hour will be sent to locations around Tiananmen Square, the Global Times said.

Clean snow will also be dumped into dammed sections in three rivers that drift through the city to be used for road cleaning, irrigation and to supplement the rivers' water levels, it said.

Additional snow-melting areas have been assigned

citywide, it added.

For years northern China has been battling a water shortage that experts say is caused by global warming, drought and rising demand from tens of millions of people who live in Beijing and the booming areas around it.

Water consumption in Beijing, with a population of nearly 20 million and growing, rose to 3.55 billion cubic metres last year, compared with its water supply of 2.18 billion cubic metres, the Global Times said.

The city was hit by its worst snowstorm since 1951 on January 3 last year, which lasted 20 hours with an average snowfall of nearly 11 millimetres (less than half an inch).

Pope says internet users risk 'solitude'

VATICAN CITY (AFP) — Pope Benedict XVI on Saturday warned that the Internet does not make people more humane but instead risks increasing a "sense of solitude and disorientation" among "numbed" young people.

"A large number of young people... establish forms of communication that do not increase humaneness but instead risk increasing a sense of solitude and disorientation," Benedict told a Vatican

conference on culture.

He also said that young people were being "numbed" by the Internet, adding that the technology was creating an "educational emergency - a challenge that we can and must respond to with creative intelligence."

Benedict last month said the growing use of new technologies should set off "an alarm bell" as it was blurring the boundary between truth and illusion.

LaCie announces Starck Mobile USB 3.0 portable hard drive

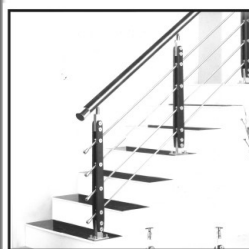
LaCie has announced the Starck Mobile USB 3.0. The drive is a version of the Starck Mobile Hard Drive, but with USB 3.0 support.

Macs don't currently have USB 3.0 ports, but USB 3.0 drives like the Starck Mobile are backwards compatible with USB 2.0. If you have a Mac Pro or a MacBook Pro with an ExpressCard slot, you can add USB 3.0 by

using an expansion card. LaCie offers a USB 3.0 PCI Express Card (\$50), and well as a USB 3.0 ExpressCard/34 (\$60) card.

The Starck Mobile USB 3.0 features a aluminum casing that's 2 mm thick. The USB 2.0 version has an attached cable; the new Starck Mobile USB 3.0 does not have an attached cable.

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Facebook may be poised to launch email service

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Facebook, rumored for some time to be planning its own email service, may finally be on the verge of doing so in a move that would send a shot across the bow of Google, Yahoo! and Microsoft.

TechCrunch, a leading Silicon Valley technology blog, reported that the social network plans to announce a Web-based email service complete with @facebook.com addresses at an event in San Francisco today.

Agence France-Presse and other media outlets have been invited to Facebook's event but have not been told what it will be about.

Facebook boasts more than 500 million members around the world and offering a personal email service

would lay down a powerful challenge to the established email giants -- Microsoft's Hotmail, Yahoo! Mail and Google's Gmail.

Hotmail currently has the most users, 361.7 million as of September, according to online tracking firm comScore, followed by Yahoo! with 273.1 million and Gmail with 193.3 million.

TechCrunch said Facebook's planned Web-based email service is part of a secret project known as "Project Titan" that is "unofficially referred to internally as its 'Gmail killer.'"

"And while it may only be in early stages come its launch Monday, there's a huge amount of potential here," TechCrunch's Jason Kincaid noted.

The report comes amid a

recent bout of sparring between Facebook and Google over data sharing and Silicon Valley engineering talent.

Google last week blocked Facebook from importing Gmail contact information over the Palo Alto, California-based social network's refusal to reciprocate and share data about its users.

And The Wall Street Journal reported that Internet search king Google, in a bid to stem defections to rival technology firms such as Facebook, has given all of its 23,000 employees a 10 percent pay hike.

According to the Journal, roughly 10 percent of Facebook's employees are Google veterans.

TechCrunch's Kincaid and others noted the advantages Facebook could bring to an email battle.

"Facebook has the world's most popular photos product, the most popular events product, and soon will have a very popular local deals product as well," Kincaid said.

"It can tweak the design of its webmail client to display content from each of these in a seamless fashion.

"And there's also the social element: Facebook knows who your friends are and how closely you're connected to them; it can probably do a pretty good job figuring out which personal emails you want to read most and prioritize them accordingly," he said.

Gadget blog Gizmodo said the prospect of an email service from Facebook should make Google, Yahoo! and Microsoft "very nervous."

"Facebook Mail could be a killer not only because of its potential instant size, but because of its natural advantage at making mail more useful," Gizmodo blogger Jesus Diaz said.

Climate talks 'will not yield binding treaty': Calderon

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AFP) — Mexican President Felipe Calderon said that upcoming climate change talks in Mexico will produce "unprecedented results" but not a hoped-for legally binding treaty.

Later this month 194 countries will meet in the Mexican resort city of Cancun for a second attempt at hammering out an agreement to curb greenhouse gases after 2012, when the current arrangement expires.

The climate gathering takes place in the shadow of last December's Copenhagen summit, which ended in failure after China was accused of blocking a deal on binding commitments.

"There are reasons that allow us to be moderately optimistic about what is going to happen there (in Cancun)," Calderon said on Saturday in

a speech to a business conference ahead of a Pacific Rim summit in Japan.

"It is not possible to expect the founding treaty of the future (with) the legally binding commitments that we all want," he said on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) talks.

"The good news is that Cancun will certainly make unprecedented results in my opinion."

"We may not score a touchdown in Cancun but we will certainly make a significant first down with a very important advance in the negotiations," he said, using an American football analogy.

In Seoul on Friday, the world's 20 largest rich and emerging economies including China vowed to "spare no effort" at the Cancun talks, which run from November 29 to December 10.

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'Naked' airport scanners may be 'dangerous'



WASHINGTON (AFP) — Some US scientists warned the full-body, graphic-image X-ray scanners now being used to screen passengers and airline crews at airports around the country may be unsafe.

"They say the risk is minimal, but statistically someone is going to get skin cancer from these X-rays," Dr Michael Love, who runs an X-ray lab at the department of biophysics and biophysical chemistry at Johns Hopkins University school of medicine, told AFP.

"No exposure to X-ray is considered beneficial. We know X-rays are hazardous but we have a situation at the airports where people are so eager to fly that they will risk their lives in this manner," he said.

The possible health dangers posed by the scanners add to passengers' and airline crews' concerns about the devices, which have been dubbed "naked" scanners because of the graphic image they give of a person's body, genitalia and all.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) began rolling out full-body scanners at US airports in 2007, but stepped up deployment of the devices this year when stimulus funding made it possible to buy another 450 of the advanced imaging technology scanners.

Some 315 "naked" scanners are currently in use at 65 US airports, according to the TSA.

Passengers and airline crew members, including pilots, are randomly selected to pass through the scanners. They have the option of refusing, but will then be subjected to what the TSA calls an "enhanced" manual search

by an agent.

"People are not reacting well to these pat-downs," said a travel industry official, who asked not to be named.

Government officials have said that the scanners have been tested and meet safety standards.

But Captain David Bates, president of the Allied Pilots Association, which represents pilots at American Airlines, urged members to avoid the full-body scanner.

"No pilot at American Airlines should subject themselves to the needless privacy invasion and potential health risks caused by the body scanner," he said in a letter this month, which was obtained by AFP.

"Politely decline exposure and request alternative screening," even if "the enhanced pat-down is a demeaning experience," he said.

A group of scientists at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) raised concerns about the "potential serious health risks" from the scanners in a letter sent to the White House Office of Science and Technology in April.

Biochemist John Sedat and his colleagues said in the letter that most of the energy from the scanners is delivered to the skin and underlying tissue.

"While the dose would be safe if it were distributed throughout the volume of the entire body, the dose to the skin may be dangerously high," they wrote.

The scientists say the X-rays could pose a risk to everyone from travelers over the age of 65 to pregnant women and their unborn babies, to HIV-positive travel-

ers, cancer patients and men.

"Men's sexual organs are exposed to the X-rays. The skin is very thin there," Love explained.

The Office of Science and Technology responded this week to the scientists' letter, saying the scanners have been "tested extensively" by US government agencies and were found to meet safety standards.

But Sedat told AFP Friday: "We still don't know the beam intensity or other details of their classified system."



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Among cell-phone junkies, rash on the rise

If you're an incessant cell phone user and a mysterious rash appears along your jaw, cheek or ear, chances are you're allergic to nickel, a metal commonly used in cell phones.

While allergists have long been familiar with nickel allergy, "cell phone rash" is just starting to show up on their radar screen, said Dr. Luz Fonacier, head of allergy and immunology at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, N.Y.

"Increased use of cell phones with unlimited usage plans has led to prolonged exposure to the nickel in phones," said Fonacier, who is scheduled to discuss the condition in a larger presentation on skin allergies Nov. 14 at the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology annual meeting in Phoenix.

Symptoms of cell phone allergy include a red, bumpy, itchy rash in areas where the nickel-containing parts of a cell phone touch the face. It can even affect fingertips of those who text continuously on buttons containing nickel. In severe cases, blisters and itchy sores can develop.

Fonacier said she sees many patients who are allergic to nickel and don't know it. "They come in with no idea of what is causing their allergic reaction," said Fonacier.

In 2000, a researcher in

Italy documented the first case of cell phone rash, prompting other research on the condition. In a 2008 study published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, U.S. researchers tested for nickel in 22 handsets from eight manufacturers; 10 contained the metal. The parts with the most nickel were the menu buttons, decorative logos on the headsets and the metal frames around the liquid crystal display (LCD) screens.

Cell phone rash is still not well known. It's good for allergists and dermatologists to have cell phone contact dermatitis on their radar screens," said allergist Dr. Stanley M. Fineman.

Cholera

Classed by the World Health Organization as a key indicator of lack of social development

Life cycle

3 Disruption of water and sanitation systems, displacement of populations to overcrowded camps increases risk

4 The bacteria passes into the human digestive system through drinking or contaminated food

2 Organic pollutants such as human and animal waste can provide the nutrients to trigger an epidemic of the bacteria

1 V.cholerae naturally occurs in aquatic sources such as wetlands, estuaries, and stagnant water, often associated with algal blooms

Infection

► Incubation period 2 hours to 5 days

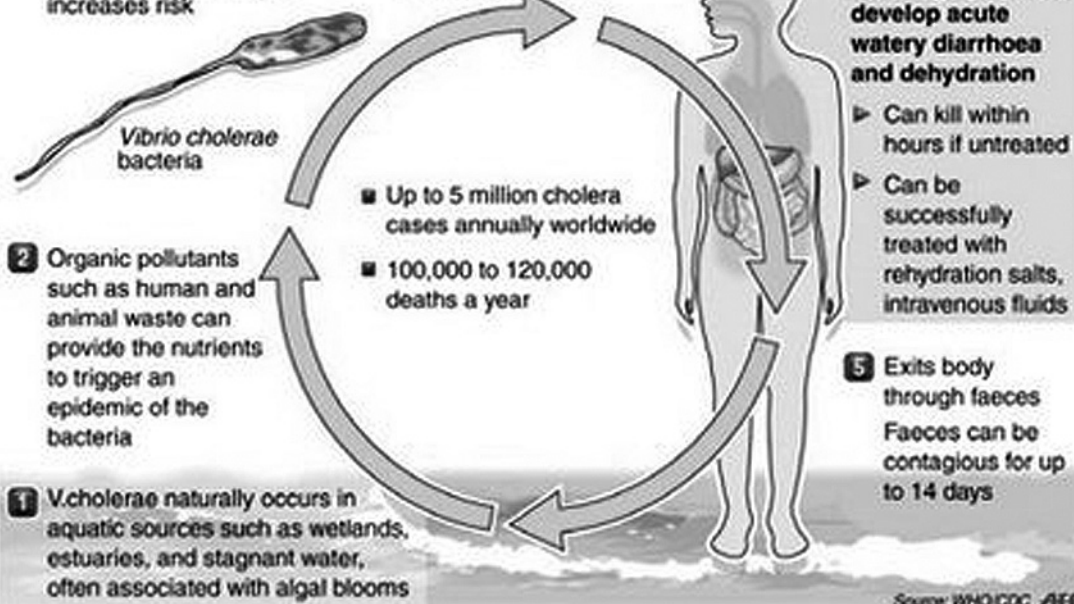
► About 75 percent of infected people do not develop symptoms

► 20 percent of those showing symptoms develop acute watery diarrhoea and dehydration

► Can kill within hours if untreated

► Can be successfully treated with rehydration salts, intravenous fluids

5 Exits body through faeces Faeces can be contagious for up to 14 days



Source: WHO/CDC/AFP

Take time to get acquainted with

NICKY
BEACH
ARUBA



There is a particularly lovely beach on Aruba with a gorgeous vista right near the airport, known always as Surfside; for some time now the building adjacent to it has gone through a string of owners seeking an appropriate identity for this special place, and it looks like it has finally found it with the opening of the Nikki Beach Club Aruba.

Our investigative team from THE MORNING NEWS went down to have a look at this latest venture, and we found just the kind of authentically tranquil, Caribbean ambiance vacationers seek when visiting Aruba. New owner Hans and his GM Lub have completely renovated and redesigned the venue to fully showcase this charming location while pro-

viding a very reasonably priced menu and bar.

November is the month to get acquainted with Nikki Beach as they are offering an introductory dinner special of only \$15 for a three-course meal or a different Entrée de Jour each day of the week for only \$10. This is available from 5:00 to 9:30 p.m., so you can finish up an afternoon spent on the beach, catch a meal after a dive with the adjacent SCUBA shop, or savor your supper along with one of the most spectacular locations to watch our amazing Aruban sunsets.

Jan and Lub have dubbed Sunday's at Nikki Beach "Rehab Day," when they provide a particularly pleasant ambiance with popular local and international DJ's from noon on and \$3 Mimosas all day long. During the tradi-

tional Happy Hour time slot, they feature live music with top local groups specializing in the soft sound of the islands.

Some extremely interesting items on the menu captured our interest along with very moderate prices; aside from the November special you can expect an a la carte tab that will add to your enjoyment. Their chef offers an extensive fusion selection that reveals expertise in several notable cuisines; a nice variety that will please everyone's mood. For lunch and snacking you find a varied choice of classic salads, favorite local treats, pastas and gourmet sandwiches. Kitchen is open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

One last interesting tidbit: Lub explained they offer a customized Departure Day Pack-

age that allows vacationer to stow their luggage, enjoy all their amenities, choose a meal, drinks or both and they will personally guarantee getting you to the airport in plenty of time for the flight. Changing rooms and showers let you swim and beach it until departure time and you can linger without rushing, as the airport is only 2 minutes away; no worries about fighting traffic or delays. "Why should you end your stay on a hurried and harried note?" asks Lub. "You can join us for the day and keep that relaxed island ambiance up to the last minute; it doesn't have to end at check out." The package requires reservations, which can be made by calling 582-0153 or contact them through their website: www.nickybeacharuba.com.

by Rosalie Klein



Madoff's watch sells for 67,500 dollars

NEW YORK (AFP) — Imprisoned Wall Street conman Bernard Madoff's luxury watches, piano and other ill-gotten gains sold for high prices at auction Saturday, along with his more mundane possessions including socks.

A Steinway grand piano went for 42,000 dollars in the New York auction of goods seized by the US Marshall's Service after Madoff's life imprisonment last year.

The former money man's craze for wrist watches was apparently shared at the auction, where proceeds will go toward compensating victims of the decades-long pyramid, or Ponzi fraud.

A Rolex moonphase watch sold for 67,500 dollars, while a Rolex Cosmograph Daytona fetched 40,000 dollars and two vintage Patek Philippe watches went for 56,000 and 37,500

dollars.

Other items among the mountain of luxury goods impounded from Madoff's Manhattan and Long Island homes -- which have already been auctioned off, along with boats and other Wall Street trophies -- were jewels, furniture and artwork.

A Tiffany mantle clock sold for 9,250 dollars and a Tabriz rug for 30,000 dollars. A Tuscan landscape by the 19th century American artist Henry Twachtman sold for 53,000 dollars, while an oil painting by Frederick Carl Frieseke, another American impressionist, sold for 47,500 dollars.

With the sale still unfolding at the Sheraton New York and online at www.txauction.com, bids for a pair of diamond earrings presumably once belonging to Madoff's wife Ruth had already hit 120,000 dollars.



Unlike the last auction of the Madoffs' lavish collections, this sale stood out for items proving that billionaires and record-breaking crooks are also just like ordinary folk.

Madoff's shoes, socks, underpants and monogrammed black velveteen slippers were among the more curious lots listed on sale.

Bed sheets, make-up brushes, a vacuum cleaner, Rod Stewart CDs, cotton napkins, cookbooks, a flat screen TV, and Jewish religious items like Hanukkah candles were all among the humdrum lots looking for new homes.

One curious insight into Madoff's money obsession was the fraudster's own collection of

pre-euro banknotes from European countries. The francs, marks, drachma and other defunct currencies were estimated to sell at 490 to 570 dollars.

Another lot included a range of trays and serving dishes from London's Piccadilly Hotel and other establishments, though it was unclear how they came to be in Madoff's possession.

Madoff ran a complex pyramid or Ponzi scheme for years in which he used new investors' capital to pay fake profits to existing investors. He pleaded guilty last year after the scheme imploded and was sentenced to 150 years.

The 72-year-old, who rose from a humble start as a life-guard in New York to become one of Wall Street's most trusted and powerful money managers, is incarcerated in North Carolina.



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FantaSea at the Royal Plaza

Seasonal festivities herald the holidays at Paseo Herencia Mall



Dressed in festive finery, Paseo Herencia Mall in Palm Beach was filled to capacity with both island residents and

visitors sharing the fun of the entertainment/dining/shopping center welcoming holiday season 2010 this past Friday, No-



vember 12.

It was a night featuring island traditions surrounding the holidays in the Plaza Padu; always a grand event. Gaita and Dande singers galore along with local dance troupes pro-



stores, it was the driving rhythms of Gaita music, typical of the Zulian region of Venezuela during Christmas time that was center stage, a treasured tradition on Aruba. Dande bands are the distinctive minstrels who go from house to house at New Year's per-

forming and passing the hat. This joyful time of year was joyfully welcomed at Paseo Herencia, a preview of weeks of specials and seasonal entertainment and events to come that make it a delightful place to visit.

by Rosalie Klein



vided an authentic Aruban end-of-the-year experience for those wishing to share the island holiday spirit.

Though "Silver Bells" wafted on the air from various

Breakfast

7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

<p>EGG DISHES</p> <p>*2 eggs sunny side up with ham & cheese</p> <p>*Scrambled with ham, cheese, onions, green pepper, tomato, mushroom</p> <p>*Plain omelettes with ham, cheese, onion, green pepper, tomato, mushroom</p> <p>All egg dishes are served with a choice of : white or whole wheat baguette or sliced toasted bread.</p> <p>*PASTECHI HORNA</p> <p>*CRÊPES</p> <p>*SWEET CRÊPES</p> <p>*BAGEL with cream cheese, smoked salmon, boiled egg</p>	<p>LOCAL BREAKFAST</p> <p>*Pan grandi (di rama) or baguette</p> <p>*KERRIE-KERRIE (FISH)</p> <p>*CONCH</p> <p>*FISH EGG</p> <p>*SHRIMPS</p> <p>*FISH FILLET</p> <p>*FISH CAKE</p> <p>*CHICKEN SOUP</p> <p>*FRUIT SALAD & YOGHURT</p> <p>* HOT BEVERAGES</p> <p>* COLD BEVERAGES</p>
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COMICS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Gripe
5. Halt
9. Broadway hit
13. Goblet feature
17. Hounds' prey
18. Quality of sound
19. Unlock
20. Horseback game
21. The Saone, to Caesar
22. Marsh grass
23. Mr. Wolfe
24. Too
25. Formal argument
27. Seaman
29. Marked with blotches
31. British streetcar
33. Jump
35. Fondle
36. Shrieked
40. Lass
42. Asset's counterbalance
46. ___ carte: 2 wds.
47. Danger
49. Mr. Webster
51. Change the decor
52. Jokes
54. Plunged headfirst
56. Evening cape
58. Everyone
59. Use a broom
61. Animal trainer
63. Feared
65. Drowse
67. Work of fiction
69. Newsman Rather
70. Electricity reservoir
74. More pleasant
76. Ancient Italian
80. Before, to a poet
81. Ascots
83. Aged beer
85. Cleopatra's river
86. Perused
88. Inside of the hand
90. Walks up and down
92. Encountered
93. Biblical weeds
95. Highway
97. Madmen
99. Saloon
101. Stumble
103. Dramatic part
104. Balcony railing
108. Quantity of paper
110. Soldered
114. Goddess of the rainbow
115. Indonesian island
117. Chessman
119. Dip out

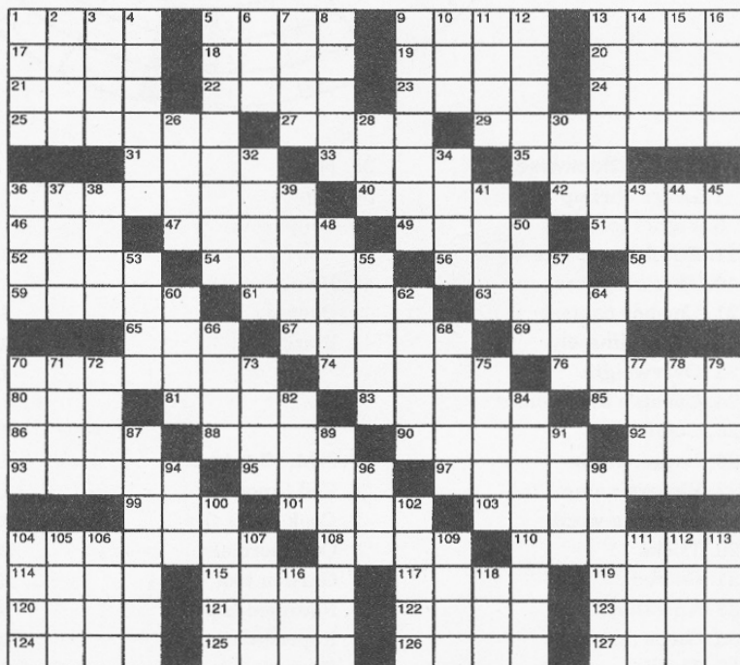
DOWN

1. Everett of "Medical Center"
2. Exceptional
3. Bedouin
4. Bawl out
5. Flowed freely
6. Tip of Italy
7. Dollar bills
8. Foot treadle
9. Hold
10. Baboon
11. Tenure
12. Pry
13. Splash
14. Highway charge
15. Otherwise
16. Frame of mind
26. Snare
28. Table support

30. Mr. Mack
32. Earn
34. Front of a ship
36. Droops
37. Talon
38. Storm
39. Love seat
41. Hog fat
43. Necklace unit
44. Not busy
45. Recounted
48. Citrus fruit
50. Difficult
53. Dispatched
55. Fiend
57. Bosc
60. Verse maker
62. Summary
64. Soon
66. Trickle
68. Lawful
70. Mr. Parks
71. Region
72. Rip
73. Twelve months

75. Happen again
77. Actress Kennedy
78. Mr. Guinness
79. Seines
82. Coin opening
84. Famous
87. Degrades
89. Wed
91. Auction
94. Vital juice
96. Perish
98. Bank employee
100. Revolt
102. Stationery
104. Medicinal pellet
105. Opera solo
106. Peel
107. Record
109. Female horse
111. Challenge
112. Singer Brickell
113. Ship's floor
116. Meadow
118. Gain victory

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Sudoku



SOLUTION

4	6	2	8	1	7	8	9	9
8	5	1	4	9	2	7	6	3
7	9	8	5	6	8	1	4	2
1	2	9	6	4	8	9	8	7
6	8	7	9	8	5	4	2	1
9	4	8	2	7	1	6	3	5
5	1	4	8	2	9	8	7	6
3	7	6	1	5	4	2	9	8
2	8	9	7	3	6	5	1	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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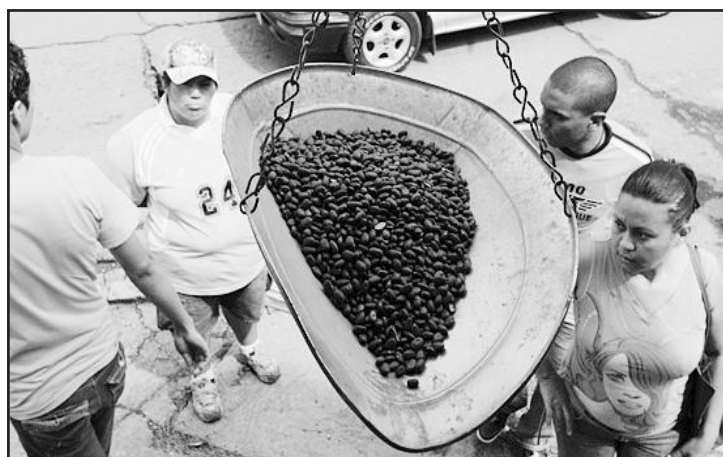
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NEW DELHI, India -- Indian girls take pictures outside the Punjab state pavilion during the 2010 India International Trade Fair in New Delhi yesterday. About 7,000 exhibitors from 24 countries participate in the 14-day fair, including different Indian states and Union Territories with the theme 'Clean and Energy Efficient Technology Products and Services.' (AFP PHOTO)



TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras -- Locals queue to buy beans in Tegucigalpa on November 13, 2010. Honduras' National Supplier of Staple Food (BANASUPRO) set up mobile units in several points of the city to sell measures of bean (five pounds) at half price, after its price rose to 120 lempiras (six US dollars) earlier last week. (AFP PHOTO)



KAMPONG SPEU, Cambodia -- Cambodian farmers carry rice bales through a field in Cambodia's Kampong Speu province, some 60 km south of Phnom Penh. Cambodia's parliament approved a five-year national development plan on May 31 aimed at achieving annual growth of six percent, helped by billions of dollars in foreign aid. (AFP PHOTO)

Italian giant truffle sold for 105,000 euros

ALBA, Italy (AFP) - A giant white truffle was sold off yesterday to a Hong Kong buyer for 105,000 euros (144,000 dollars) at a lavish auction near the town of Alba in northern Italy, organisers said.

The truffle weighed 900 gram and the auction was held at the medieval Castello di Grinzane in a part of Italy famous for its wine and truffles.

The price per gram for the truffle was therefore 117 euros -- lower than the rate of 133 euros per gram paid at the same auction last year.

Last year's truffle also went to a buyer from Hong Kong.

Proceeds from the auction will go to scholarships for Italian students, a children's



charity in Hong Kong and local charities in Alba.

"Truffle allows gourmets and gourmands from around the world to meet up in this

corner of the Piemonte region to give life to an event with a big following," said Tomaso Zanoletti, a senator and one of the organisers.

Pope: World economy needs 'profound reform'

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Benedict XVI yesterday called for "profound reform" of the world economy in the wake of last week's G20 summit in Seoul, calling for a revival of agriculture to ensure sustainable development.

"The current economic crisis, which has been addressed in these days by the meeting of the G20, has to be taken with great seriousness," Benedict said in a weekly address to thousands of pilgrims in St. Peter's Square in the Vatican.

The crisis "sends a strong call for a profound reform of the global economic development model," he said, adding that top economies should not

"chase advantageous alliances that could... have grave results for the poorest."

The pope also called for a revival of farming to help the victims of the global economic crisis and warned against "unsustainable consumerism."

"A strategic revival of agriculture appears crucial," Benedict said.

"I think the moment has come for a re-evaluation of agriculture not in a nostalgic sense but as an indispensable resource for the future," he added.

He also said that despite the economic crisis "long-industrialised countries are promoting lifestyles that are dominated by

unsustainable consumerism."

Benedict called for "a new equilibrium between agriculture, industry and services so that development can be sustainable."

He said the economic crisis was "an acute symptom" of a wider malaise that includes "the continuing imbalance between wealth and poverty, the scandal of hunger, the environmental emergency and... the problem of unemployment."

Ahead of last week's summit of G20 world leaders in South Korea, the pope said the world should find "lasting, sustainable and just solutions" to the economic crisis and avoid policies that favour some countries over others

Iran says oil at \$100 would not hurt world economy

TEHRAN, Iran (AFP) - Iran said yesterday that the world economy is in a position to absorb an oil price of 100 dollars a barrel even as it finds the current price range suitable for investments.

"Oil prices increasing to 100 dollars (per barrel) would not hurt the global economy," Mohammad Ali Khatibi, Iran's representative at the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), said.

Khatibi also said that the current price range of 70 to 90 dollars was a "suitable" range.

"Not only producers, but consumers have reached this agreement that 70 to 90 dollars is a suitable price for oil because it encourages investment and does not hurt the global economy," he said.

His remarks come days after OPEC revised upward its world oil demand and growth estimates for both 2010 and 2011.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

RANA	CREEP	WIDEN	ALP
ADEN	AORTA	ECOLE	ASIA
NEWTON	BOOTH	TARKINGTON	
REES	AWNS	IRONS	
STRATA	LAVA	LASERS	
AWASH	ENOS	AURAE	
NICHOLAS	VACHELL	LINDSAY	
TREE	LUKE	PILL	HAE
ALS	LADIES	TEES	CLARA
HONED	KAREN	CREDOS	
OCTAGON	MALES	PRESENT	
PHOTOS	SATIN	FLIES	
SITES	LAKE	DREAMS	GOT
INE	AERO	ILSE	ALSO
SAMUEL	DASHIELL	HAMMETT	
PYLON	ERIE	AUDIE	
GABION	REND	ARREAR	
ARPEN	MOAN	SAMA	
JOHN	GREENLEAF	WHITTIER	
DAVID	EASED	DRIED	ADDS
RED	STARS	SOMME	ROOT

Taj Mahal Restaurant in Oranjestad is an authentic culinary excursion



When Bharat Shah, originally from India, but now a successful businessman in California, put on a spectacular wedding in Aruba for his daughter Lisa and her groom Kalpesh, they welcomed hundreds of friends and relatives from around the world, including the "old country."

When all the wedding guests had finally arrived in Aruba, Bharat hosted an official welcome party along the shore in Palm Beach, and he chose to have it catered by Taj Mahal restaurant, he was that impressed by their cuisine.

If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal;" discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

A taste-testing crew from THE MORNING NEWS chose a selection of their singular starters and two main courses with saffron rice, served family style, which provided a fine example of the versatility of their chef.

Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb. Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on which you can spoon your

main course, as well. Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal.

Our group also added an appetizer of crunchy Samosas, the Indian form of a potato knish, served with either cilantro or sweet and sour sauce. A platter of their Jhinga, large, crispy-fried shrimp in a delicate batter is ample enough to serve as a main course, though featured on their appetizer menu.

As we mentioned, main courses are served family style, in beautiful little pots that sit upon a candle to keep them warm. Our group sampled the "Mutton Saagwala," also known as "Lamb Shag" which is cooked in a thick sauce of yogurt and spinach, and the "Fish Hara Masala," moist, tender chunks of fish in a rich sauce featuring cilantro as the main flavoring. This is offered in mild, medium and very spicy, we found the medium quite spicy enough for us; it left a tingle on the tongue.

The family style service allows everyone at the table to sample a bit of this and that, and we heartily recommend you do, to truly appreciate this authentic bit of India in Aruba. Open for lunch and dinner, Taj Mahal sports a cozy and intimate air-conditioned dining room and a small outdoor terrace for those that enjoy dining al fresco. They have an exotic dessert menu to match, but our group was too stuffed to partake; there was even enough left to box up and provide a lunch next day for the lucky first person to get to it!

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, across from Aruba's Numismatic Museum, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary; they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal! Call 588-4494 for reservations.

by Rosalie Klein

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a

very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive

land life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a



amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the is-

modest fee. Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



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A must see The aruba Donkey Sanctuary



key home and bottle-fed every two hours - night and day. We are happy to say that this youngster is enjoying a lot of attention.

The sanctuary is certainly worth visiting and has become a real tourist attraction. Walking around between the donkeys in their natural habitat and enjoying a beautiful piece of Aruban heritage is really special. It is a treat for children as well as for grown-ups and shows how

On Aruba, roaming donkeys who are injured or sick are picked up and taken to the donkey sanctuary. A group of volunteers takes care of the herd which has increased to some 100 donkeys. And, just like nature intended, baby donkeys are born on a quite regular basis.

At this moment there are a few lovely baby animals that can be admired at the shelter. Recently a four-day old filly lost its mother. One of the volunteers took the baby don-

key home and animals can improve life, each in its own way

The doors of the shelter are always open for visitors; entrance is free of charge. Opening hours are from 9 am to 4 pm on weekdays, and on the weekends from 10 am to 3 pm. One can have a drink on the cozy terrace, there is a small shop with donkey-related presents and if you there is always someone around who can answer all your questions with enthusiasm.

First inscriptions for the “Red Ribbon Ride Wad 2010” takes place



Last Saturday, the first inscription took place for the Red Ribbon Ride. The ride is organized by the Women's Club of Aruba, in conjunction with the HOG Harley Davidson Group.

Bikers registered in a very entertaining ambiance for this tremendous ride which will take place on November 28.

The Women's Club of Aruba invites all bikers, Trike- and Quad racers to participate and so give their support the 'E Faro Foundation', a foundation that gives support to AIDS patients and their family members. The contribution is Afls. 35

On November 19, the second inscription will take at the Big Twin, at L.G. Smith Boulevard between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. The ride will take off from D.O.W. at Wayaca.

Women's Club of Aruba extends its gratitude to everyone for their cooperation in

helping making the community aware of the danger of AIDS.

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Filipino champ Pacquiao goes distance to beat Margarito



Manny Pacquiao celebrates after he was declared the winner by a unanimous decision against Antonio Margarito (L). In Manila people cheer as Pacquiao is announced as the winner. The fight in Texas, was aired live in the Philippines where it was shown on giant screens in malls and plazas. Filipinos all over the country celebrated the victory of Pacquiao as he won his historic eighth world title. Pacquiao is considered a national icon in this country, earning millions from endorsements and getting elected to Congress due to his fame. **AFP PHOTO**

DALLAS, Texas (AFP) — Manny Pacquiao captured the vacant World Boxing Council super welterweight title with a punishing 12-round unanimous decision over Antonio Margarito at Cowboys Stadium on Saturday.

Filipino hero Pacquiao won on all three judges' scorecards as he put a savage beating on Margarito and extended his win streak to 13 straight fights.

"A really hard fight," Pacquiao said. "The hardest fight of my boxing career. Margarito is really fast and strong. He is big, bigger than me."

The southpaw Pacquiao used his hand speed and ring savvy to prevail in front of a crowd of over 41,000, despite giving up a 17-pound weight advantage.

"I never expected him to be as strong as he was," Pacquiao said. "He hurt me in the body and in the face. I am so lucky tonight."

One judge scored the fight 120-109 while the other two had it 119-109 and 118-110.

Pacquiao has shown little sign of losing speed and power as he moves up in weight to fight bigger and

stronger opponents, but he failed to score the knockout on Saturday.

Even so, the bout didn't turn into the same kind of dull affair as Pacquiao's fight against Joshua Clottey at the same venue in March.

Unlike Clottey, Margarito came to fight. He paid the price as he suffered a nasty gash under the right eye and had a huge welt that almost closed his left eye and ended up in the hospital after the fight.

Pacquiao, 31, entered the ring at 148 pounds while Margarito beefed up from 150 at the weigh-in to 165

pounds by fight time.

Pacquiao dominated Margarito from the outset to capture his eighth title in as many weight classes. He is also the first Asian to hold four or more major world titles.

Pacquiao earned close to 15 million dollars while Margarito collected about six million.

It was Margarito's first fight in the United States since serving a one-year suspension after he got caught with plaster-filled hand wraps in his gloves prior to a fight against Shane Mosley.

Warren unhappy with Haye betting claim

LONDON (AFP) — Boxing promoter Frank Warren has criticised David Haye for claiming he bet on himself to beat Audley Harrison.

Haye admitted after defending his WBA heavyweight crown on Saturday that he had backed himself to win in round three.

The 30-year-old, who also promoted the fight, stopped Harrison in that round in

Manchester.

The British Board of Boxing Control has no specific rules prohibiting boxers from betting on their own fights, but Warren believes any such bets undermine the sport.

"For a fighter promoting it (the bout) who is in the ring I think it is unacceptable," Warren told BBC 5 Live's Sportsweek.

"It shouldn't be allowed to happen. It is not as though they're not getting a fortune to fight in the first place."

"If I was a member of the public and that happened, I don't think I would be too happy about it."

"I'm sure the board of control will make its own decision on that but I don't think it looks good for the game or David Haye if it is true that he had that bet."

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Soderling gives Monfils deja vu to win Paris Masters



Soderling celebrates

PARI (AFP) — Sweden's Robin Soderling secured his first ever Masters title with a 6-1, 7-6 (7/1) defeat of home favourite Gael Monfils in the ATP Paris Masters final on Sunday.

Soderling, a two-time French Open finalist, claimed his sixth career title to inflict a second consecutive Bercy final defeat upon 12th seed Monfils, who was beaten by Novak Djokovic in straight sets in last year's decider.

Victory also made Soderling the first man from his country to win a Masters tournament since Thomas Enqvist's success in Cincinnati in 2000.

Soderling, 26, had enjoyed an incredible week in Paris, notably saving three match points in an epic semi-final against unseeded Frenchman Michael Llodra on Saturday.

Gilles Simon, Stanislas Wawrinka and Andy Roddick were Soderling's other victims and he replaces Andy Murray as the world number four -- his highest ever ranking.

"I'm going in the right direction. Now my aim is to be

number three (in the world)," said Soderling.

"This fills me with confidence for London. You have to play all the best players and each match is potentially a Grand Slam final. So you need enormous confidence. This could be one of the keys."

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Guillen allegedly arranged HGH shipment: report



NEW YORK (AFP) - San Francisco Giants outfielder Jose Guillen allegedly arranged for a September shipment of almost 50 syringes pre-loaded with human growth hormones, the New York Daily News reported Sunday.

Guillen, 34, was left off

the playoff roster for the Giants, who went on to win the World Series for the first time in 56 years by defeating Texas in five games in Major League Baseball's best-of-seven final.

Citing a source close to a federal investigation of Guillen, the newspaper reported that Guillen's shipment was intercepted by US Drug Enforcement Administration agents who were monitoring moves by the suspected supplier.

The package in question was sent to Guillen's home to the attention of Yamel Guillen, Jose's wife, and came as the Giants were fighting for a playoff spot they only clinched on the final day of the regular season, the News reported.

Federal agents told Major

League Baseball about the shipment and they continue to investigate the shipment and if anyone else in baseball was involved.

Sources also told the News that federal agents might be looking into a second shipment of HGH from Dominican suppliers to a San Francisco apartment or hotel address that was registered under Jose Guillen's name.

Guillen was left off the playoff roster for what manager Bruce Bochy called baseball reasons, citing a neck injury that nagged Guillen in the final weeks of the season.

Guillen had been handed a 15-game suspension prior to the 2008 season after reportedly buying HGH and other steroids.

But just before the start of the season, Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig gave amnesty for past acts to anyone named in the Mitchell Report looking into baseball doping, a wipeout that included Guillen's ban.

Hurricane Harbhajan props up India



HYDERABAD (AFP) - Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh frustrated New Zealand with the bat once again, smashing 85 runs off 82 balls on the third day of the second Test on Sunday.

The tailender hammered five sixes and seven fours to add 69 runs for an unbroken last wicket partnership with Shanthakumaran Sreesanth (14 not out), taking India to 436-9 at the close at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium.

Harbhajan's onslaught followed his maiden Test cen-

tury that helped India salvage a draw in the opener against the Kiwis in Ahmedabad.

New Zealand bowlers, led by Daniel Vettori (4-123), had reduced India to 367-9 but Harbhajan's defiant knock ensured India finished the day with a handy 86-run lead.

Harbhajan cut, pulled and drove with belligerence to enthral a 30,000-strong weekend crowd. His efforts helped India pile up 113 runs in the final session despite losing four wickets.

Baseball fans hit prices out of the park

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky -- Baseball fanatics paid thousands for memorabilia at the Louisville Slugger Museum's annual auction in Kentucky, auctioneers said.

The items sold Saturday

included bats, jerseys, jackets, autographs and balls linked to the national pastime's greatest names, The Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal reported.

The ball Babe Ruth hit for his 702nd out of 714 home runs sold for \$264,500, the price of a comfortable home in many of the city's neighborhoods.

A photograph of Marilyn Monroe, signed to her husband, Joe DiMaggio, went for \$63,250, about 50 percent higher than Kentucky's median household income in 2008.

Many sales far outran advance estimates and impressed even David Hunt,

president of the Pennsylvania company that ran the event, the newspaper said.

"We had some amazing results today," he said.

Most of the serious bidding, for the most expensive treasures, was carried out by telephone.

None of the successful bidders for the most coveted items would be identified, said a publicist for the event.

Greg Schube, a collector from Cincinnati, got five items, including a DiMaggio print and several autographed baseballs. Asked what he had paid, he told the Courier-Journal, "I'd rather not publish that in the paper."

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Pirates manager hunt reaches final Hurdle: report

PITTSBURGH (AFP) - Former Colorado Rockies manager Clint Hurdle has agreed to a three-year deal to manage the Pittsburgh Pirates, Major League Baseball's website said Sunday.

Citing unnamed sources, the report said the Pirates, who have suffered 18 losing seasons in a row, will announce Hurdle as their new manager today.

A search that lasted almost seven weeks and involved eight candidates being interviewed concluded with Hurdle, 53, who guided the Rockies for parts of eight seasons, including the 2007 campaign where they reached the World Series.

The Rockies, who lost to Boston in the 2007 championship final, replaced Hurdle with former Pirates manager Jim Tracy in May of last year.

Hurdle served this past season as the batting coach for the Texas Rangers, who had the top hitting average in the major leagues and advanced to the World Series for the first time, losing to San Francisco earlier this month.

Vettel reflects on title as celebratory corks pop

ABU DHABI (AFP) - Sebastian Vettel staggered into an ocean of champagne and a mass of his Red Bull team's delirious mechanics on Sunday evening - still wondering if he had really won the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix and with it the drivers' world championship.

After a rollercoaster season, the 23-year-old's victory in the title showdown race at the Yas Marina Circuit was still proving beyond his comprehension hours after a stirring race that he won ahead of the chasing McLaren of Briton Lewis Hamilton.

"I still cannot believe it," he said. Vettel's win made



him the youngest champion in Formula One history, a record he took from Hamilton, and also only the second German to lift the title in succession to his boyhood hero, Michael Schumacher, now his friend.

"I know things now, that I am on the same level as these

other guys - Lewis and Jensen, but also others like (Ayrton) Senna and Michael. But I did not know what was happening in the race.

"In the last 10 laps, my engineer Rocky (Guillaume Rocquelin) was giving me advice to help me get the car home.

"I wondered why he was so nervous. I thought we must be in a good position and he just said 'it's looking good'!

"To be honest, I didn't know what he meant. I just focused on myself, kept racing, and they came on the radio and screamed that 'we have won the world championship' and then it was all a bit crazy."

Platini confirms match-fixing doubts, warns players

SOFIA (AFP) - UEFA suspects possible match-fixing in Bulgaria, the president of European football's ruling body, Michel Platini, said in Sofia Sunday, warning all players and clubs they will no longer have a place in football if caught.

"It is not only Bulgaria but many countries. When we send letters to the national football associations it means that we have doubts or suspicions as to the transfers of money (around games) but this is not proof already," Platini said.

"It is for the national association then to refer the signal to the police or judicial authorities."

"I am not a policeman or judge to combat against the mafia," he shrugged. "But I want to address the players as they are the ones who fix games: be careful because if you get caught you will never again play football."

All kinds of allegations of match fixing and illegal betting erupted in the Bulgarian media ahead of Platini's trip to Sofia but both UEFA and the Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) have so far refused to confirm any of the reports.

BFU President Borislav Mihaylov however said Sunday that the BFU has received "several" signals from UEFA about possible match-fixing.

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